

Province: Kandahar

Governor: Tooryalai Wesa

Provincial Police Chief: Colonel Matiullah Khan

Population Estimate: 913,900	Urban: 323,900 (35%)	Rural: 590,000 (65%) ¹	
Area in Square Kilometers:	54,022	Capital: Kandahar	
Names of Districts:	Kharkrez, Ghorak, Arghandab, Maruf, Spin Boldak, Kandahar, Daman, Arghistan, Shorabak, Panjwayi, Maywand, Shah Wali Kot, Zharmi, Nabsh, Mian Nashin, Reg		
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun, Baluch, Hazara, Tajik	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni, very small Shi'ite minority	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Durrani (Barakzai, Popalzai, Alikozai, Achekzai) & Ghilzai (Noorzai, Hotak, Tarakai)
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture & animal husbandry, narcotics	Minor: Trade, smuggling	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Opium, fruit, marijuana	Sheep, goats	
Literacy Rate Total: 13% ²	Number of Educational Institutions: 204		
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007:	January: 13 February: 13	March: 21 April: 15	May: 18 June: 15
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	<u>2006:</u> 12,619 ha	<u>2007:</u> 16,615 ha	
NGOs Active in Province:	Various UN organizations, Islamic Relief Organization, International Organization for Migration, Senlis Council, CARE, Médecins Sans Frontières		
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ³ Total PRT Projects: 365	Planned Cost: \$39,033,534 Total Spent: \$4,750,560		
Transportation: Road, large airport at Kandahar city, horse & camel	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Afghan ring road (from Qalat to Lashkar Gah via Kandahar city), from Kandahar to Quetta via Spin Boldak, and Kandahar to Tirin Kot		
Electricity Notes: If and when the Kojaki dam comes on-line, most of Kandahar province could have significant power sources.			
Health Facilities:90	<u>Hospitals:</u> 4	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 86	
Rivers: Arghandab Rod, Tarnak, Rod-I Lurah, Pishin Lora			
Significant Topographic Features	Desert in south, hills in the north, mountainous terrain along Pak border in Spin Boldak		

¹ Afghan Information Management Services, *2003-2004 Population Statistics*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/> (accessed September 17, 2007).

² *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164.

³ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Tooryalai Wesa



Tooryalai Wesa, 58, was appointed by Afghan President Hamid Karzai as the new Governor of Kandahar Province on December 18, 2008. Wesa replaced General Rahmatullah Raufi, who only served four months as Kandahar's Governor before being removed. Tooryalai Wesa is an agricultural expert who worked at the University of British Columbia for the past 13-years. He grew up in Kandahar City and served as Kandahar University's first president until he left the country in 1991 with his wife, who also works at UBC.⁴ The couple has three children and has lived in Coquitlam, B.C. since 1991.

Wesa is a member of the Mohammadzai tribe and retains incredibly close ties with the Karzai family, especially with Qayum Karzai.⁵ Wesa speaks six languages and is well respected among many Kandaharis because of his tribal affiliation and background in rural development. (*Photo source: CBC*)

Deputy Governor Dr. Ghulam Jelani Hamayoon



Information forthcoming.

Chief of Police Colonel Matiullah Qateh



Colonel Matiullah Khan replaced former Kandahar provincial police chief, Syed Aqa Aqib, two weeks after the spectacular Taliban attack against the Sarposha prison complex in downtown Kandahar.⁶ (*Photo source: National Post*)

⁴ "Afghan-Canadian named new Kandahar governor," *CBC*, December 13, 2008. Available at, <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/18/kandahar-gov.html?ref=rss>

⁵ Graeme Smith, "New Kandahar governor Karzais' childhood friend," December 19, 2008. Available at, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081219.AFGHAN19/TPStory/International>

⁶ The Sarposha prison complex was assaulted by the Taliban on June 13, 2008. The attack resulted in heavy destruction of the prison's walls and parts of the main building. The attack set free an estimated 1,100 prisoners, including up to 400 Taliban fighters. Fred Burton and Scott Stewart, "The Destruction of Sarposha," *Stratfor*, June 18, 2008 http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/terrorism_weekly_june_18?ip_auth_redirect=1

National Directorate of Security Chief Sadullah Khan



Known for his efficiency, there have been complaints that NDS methods in Kandahar have included serious human rights violations. Khan has admitted that on occasion NDS interrogations have gone too far.⁷

Wolesi Jirga Members:⁸

	Abdul Qayyum Karzai	Male Popolzai Pashtun	President Karzai's brother, has an M.A. from USC, owns at least one restaurant in the U.S., on Narcotics Committee
	Noorulhaq Olumi	Male Barakzai Pashtun; Mutahed-e Melli	Armed-services committee chair. Received military training in the U.S. in the 1970s, and was governor general in southern Afghanistan before Soviet invasion. Was in Parcham faction, related to fmr pres. Karmal. Lived in Holland during Taliban era.
	Mohammad Arif Noorzai	Male Noorzai Pashtun	First deputy speaker. Related to Pres. Karzai through marriage. High school graduate.
	Khalid Pashtoon	Male Barakzai Pashtun	Deputy chair of internal security committee. Attended USC, former aide to Sherzai. Brother of Yusuf Pashtoon, Urban planning minister.
	Haji Ameer Lali	Male Popolzai Pashtun	Member of armed services committee. Demobilized local commander.
	Haji Habibullah Jan*	Male Alokzai Pashtun	Member of Kandahar security shura, sometimes rival of Karzai. He was shot to death on July 5, 2008 by Taliban gunmen as he left his home.
	Haji Ahmad Shah Khan Asakzai	Male Pashtun	Tribal elder from Spin Boldak. Member of armed-services committee
	Obaidullah	Male Pashtun	Member of the national economic committee. Came to power in a controversial election. High school graduate.
	Fariba Ahmadi Kakar	Female Pashtun	Member of the communications committee. Self-educated teacher
	Shakiba	Female member of Olumi party	Deputy of Environment committee. School principal. Married mother of five. Father is on the provincial council.
	Malali Ishaqzai	Female Pashtun	Member of government affair committee. Has been to Paris. High school education.



Meshrano Jirga Members:⁹

⁷ Graeme Smith, "From Canadian custody into cruel hands," *Globe and Mail*, 23 April 2007

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070423.wdetainee23/BNStory/Afghanistan/>> (3 December 2007).

⁸ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

⁹ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

	Mulla Sayyad Mohammad	Male Barakzai Pashtun	Payam-e Solh political faction. Deputy of armed-services committee. Has a bachelors' degree.
	Mohammad Omar Shairzaad	Male	Member of petitions committee. Head of Esteqlal (Independence) group. Has a bachelors' degree.
No photo available	Gangaram	Sikh Businessman	Born in 1947. Women & civil affairs committee member

Provincial Council Members:

	Ahmad Wali Karzai		Mohammad Ehsan
	Haji Agha Lallai Dastgeeri		Mohammad Younis Hussaini
	Haji Nemattullah Khan		Shakiba Ahmadi
	Haji Mohammad Qasim		Bismillah Afghanmaal
	Haji Sayyad Jan Khakrezwal		Janan
	Ahmad Shah Khan		Soria Barna
	Fazal Mohammad		Zarghuna Kakar
	Maryam		

Human Terrain:¹⁰

Achekzai: Formerly part of the Barakzai grouping, the Achekzai were separated from the rest of the tribe by Ahmad Shah Durrani for management purposes, and the Achekzai remained one of the most troublesome tribes in the province. Traditionally nomadic, they further divide themselves into two large sub-groupings, the Gujanzais and the Badinzais, and had a reputation for disunity and predation. They now primarily live in Spin Boldak District.

¹⁰ Compiled from:

- Adamec, Ludwig W. *Kabul and Southeast Afghanistan Historical and Political Gazetteer of Afghanistan*. Vol. 6, Akademische Druck u. Verlagsanstalt Graz, Austria. 1985;
- Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS);
- Afghanistan Tribal Liaison Office Reports for RC South;
- Canadian Task Force Kandahar Tribal Reports;
- Giustozzi, Antonio and Noor Allah. *Tribes and Warlords in Southern Afghanistan 1980-2005*. Crisis States Research Cente LSE Working Paper No. 7;
- Taebi, Abdul Latif. *Pashtun Tribes (Pashtani gabile)*, Afghanistan Academy of Sciences. International Center for Pashto Studies, Kabul. 1991;
- UK Task Force Helmand Tribal Reports;
- US Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team Field Reports.

Alizai: Major branch of the Panjpay Durrani Pashtuns with two main sub-tribes, **Jalozai** and **Hasanzai**. Clashes between the Jalozai and Hasanzai have been a major source of tension in northern Helmand province. Present Governor Sher Mohammad Akhundzada is Jalozai while Abdul Wahid, a major figure in Baghran district, Helmand province is Hasanzai. The feud between Abdul Wahid and the father of Sher Mohammad dates back to the Jihad period.

Baluch: The Baluch, thought to number over a million in Afghanistan, are an Indo-Iranian ethnic group spread over Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. Significant numbers also exist abroad. In Pakistan, Baluchi independence groups have look fought with Islamabad over the revenues from natural resources in Baluchistan. The capital of Pakistani Baluchistan is Quetta, where many of the Taliban are thought to have fled after their fall from power, but Qalat, further south, has traditionally been the seat of the Baluch Khans. The Baluch are overwhelmingly but not entirely Sunni Muslims. Their power-structures, based on the khan, are generally perceived to be more concentrated than those of the more fractious Pashtuns. In Afghanistan they are primarily nomadic, roaming the southernmost districts of the three southernmost provinces. In Kandahar they are found mostly in Shorabak and Reg districts.

Barakzai: From the Zirak division of Durrani Pashtuns, the Barakzai primarily inhabit the (relatively) quiet districts of Arghistan and Maruf. They rose to prominence with Dost Mohammad Shah (the British East India Company's adversary in the first Anglo-Afghan War) and furnished a string of kings through the current aspirant to the throne, Heir Apparent Ahmad Shah. Accordingly, they are one of the most respected tribes in the country.

Barech: A Durrani Pashtun tribe found almost exclusively in the district of Shorawak in southern Kandahar province. There appears to be little ethnographic literature on the Barech beyond the observations of some 19th and early 20th century British civil and military personnel (see Adamec, *Historical and Political Gazetteer of Afghanistan, Vol. 5, Kandahar and South-Central Afghanistan* 1980, *Akademische Druck-u. Verlagsanstalt, Graz-Austria*). Despite the Barech claims of Durrani kinship (see Pashtun Genealogies attached), there is reason to believe that the Barech have a different ethnic origin, perhaps Baloch, and transferred their ethnic/tribal identity during a shift in the power balance between the Kingdom of Afghanistan and the Emirate of Qalat.

Brahui: Numbering around a quarter million in Afghanistan, almost entirely in Kandahar, the Brahui are a small tribal group more usually found in Pakistan's Baluchistan province. Predominantly Sunni, Brahui are descended from Dravidian tribes that once spanned across India before the Aryan invasions of 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. The Brahui language still retains the Dravidian grammatical structure, although most vocabulary is at this point Indo-Iranian in origin. Having lived amongst the Baluch for centuries, they are in many cases indistinguishable, and even provided the Khans of Qalat. In Kandahar they primarily inhabit Shorabak District.

Kiral: A very small Durrani Pashtun tribe located in Maruf district, Kandahar province. Affiliation with larger tribe or tribal confederation unknown.

Noorzai: Although usually categorized and self-identified as Panjpay Durrani, many Zirak Durrani dismiss the Noorzai as Ghalji or Ghilzai, not Durrani at all. At this point in time, it is not clear whether this is a long-standing belief or has arisen out of the turmoil of the past three decades, particularly the close partnership between the Noorzai and the Ghalji-dominated Taliban leadership. Given the numbers and importance of the Noorzai in the south, this attitude may have consequences for long-term tribal politics.

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security:

Kandahar suffers from a number of natural and man-made security impediments. Besides bordering Pakistan and having a very large border-crossing to that country at Spin Boldak, Kandahar faces terrain challenges in the north of the province where wadis (valley or dry riverbed) and hilly terrain make for an ideal insurgent environment. Socially Kandahar suffers as well. Still very much a tribal society, Kandahar still relies on chiefs for justice and security; Kandahar has the lowest number of *professional* judges in the nation.¹¹ Similarly, the security of an area is often determined by the alacrity and competence of the tribal chiefs, and whether or not they allow in Taliban or Government of Afghanistan forces and their allies.¹²

Significant Risk: Kandahar province as a whole is now considered a significant risk. Two districts were overrun last year, Miya Nishin and Ghorak (both on July 19), and two other districts, Kandahar and Zhari, have witnessed almost too many violent incidents to count (28 and 30, respectively) in 2007. Kandahar province witnessed the most insurgent attacks out of any other Afghan province during the first eight months of 2008, with a total of 330, according to a report by the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office. According to an Afghan government document, *Security Forces' Threat Assessment* (dated August 20, 2008), the entire province of Kandahar is shaded red, or "high threat."

A number of spectacular attacks, including the daring Taliban assault against the massive Sarposha prison complex in downtown Kandahar on June 13 that freed up to 400 Taliban inmates, and the Taliban's swarm attack against the Arghandab district have seriously eroded Kandahar's stability. Several high profile assassinations, including the shooting deaths of MP Habibullah Sanzenai, also known as Habibullah Jan, Dost Mohammed Arghestani, the head of the Social Affairs Department for Kandahar, and top female provincial police officer Malalai Kakar, has further destabilized the security situation.¹³

A massive twin suicide bombing killed tribal militia commander Abdul Hakim Jan in February and another similar style twin suicide bombing inside the Kandahar City police headquarters in July nearly killed Afghan Border Police commander Abdul Razzaq. Scores were injured in the attack and eight were killed. Additionally, the Taliban stopped three buses in western Kandahar and killed 24 of its passengers, including the beheading of at least six men, after accusing them of working for the Afghan National Army.¹⁴ The event sparked massive protests throughout eastern Afghanistan against the Taliban as the 24 dead are widely believed to have been ordinary civilians.

Spin Boldak is also a district of concern given its large border crossing to Pakistan. It was along the Spin Boldak to Kandahar caravan road that the Taliban received their initial assistance from Pakistani sympathizers and in operating in this area the Taliban again hopes to utilize this connection. What the Khyber Gateway has been to Afghan governments of the past Spin Boldak is to the present one. This shift in the overall geographic center of the Afghan insurgency clearly points to the importance of the crossing to the Taliban. The commander of this border crossing, Abdul Razzaq, has been a favorite target among Taliban fighters. Razzaq was nearly killed by a twin suicide bombing attack while his visited the Kandahar City police headquarters on September 7, 2008.¹⁵

¹¹ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 163.

¹² Afghan Information Management Services, *District Profiles*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/> (accessed August 3, 2007).

¹³ MP assassinated in Kandahar," Afgha.com, July 5, 2008 <http://www.afgha.com/?q=node/8043> and "Top Female Police Officer Killed in Afghanistan," VOA, September 28, 2008. <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-09-28-voa7.cfm>

¹⁴ "Taleban kill many in bus attacks," BBC, October 19, 2008, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7678717.stm

¹⁵ "Taliban suicide bombers target senior Afghan police chief," The Long War Journal, September 7, 2008, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2008/09/taliban_suicide_bomb_6.php

DISTRICTS

The districts of Kandahar Province have shifted recently, and may do so again in the near future. At present they are Kharkrez, Ghorak, Arghandab, Maruf, Spin Boldak, Kandahar, Daman, Arghistan, Shorabak, Panjwayi, Maywand, Shah Wali Kot, Zharmi, Nabsh, Mian Nashin, and Reg.



This evaluation of district control comes from a classified U.S. assessment obtained by The Globe and Mail, valid as of Jan. 1, 2008

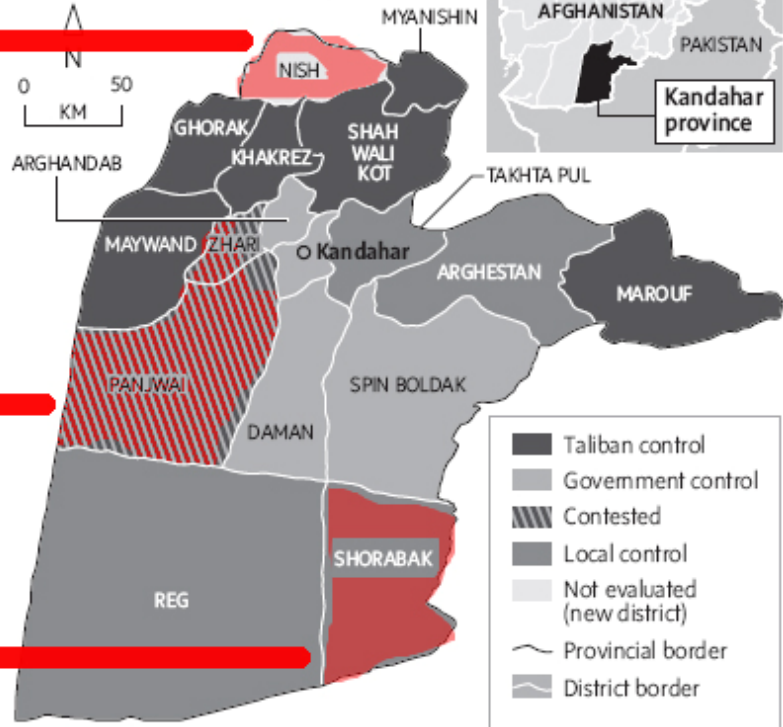
The new district of Nish was not evaluated, but is widely believed to be Taliban controlled.

The districts of Zhari and Panjwai are considered "contested" in the U.S. evaluation, but Canadian Brigadier-General Denis Thompson told reporters in August that two-thirds of the districts are controlled by the Taliban. His statement may have represented an overly optimistic assessment, according to Western security officials.

Shorabak district is considered "locally controlled" by the U.S. analysts, but many observers say it's controlled by the Taliban.

Who's in control?

A U.S. security assessment says more districts in Kandahar province are held by the Taliban than by the Afghan government and its local supporters.



DEAN TWEED/THE GLOBE AND MAIL » SOURCE: U.S. GOVERNMENT

(Source: the Globe and Mail, January 2008)